

Via Electronic Mail

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Norm Needleman
Chair, Energy & Technology Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable David Arconti
Chair, Energy & Technology Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 4034
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

**re: NECEC Written Testimony on Bills Heard During the February 24, 2022
Energy and Technology Committee Hearing**

Dear Chair Needleman and Chair Arconti,

The Northeast Clean Energy Council (“NECEC”) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on bills heard during the February 24th Energy and Technology Committee (“Committee”) hearing. Specifically, NECEC is supportive of SB10, An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation, and SB90, An Act Concerning Consultant and Procurement Authority for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. NECEC supports these pieces of legislation, because they would fully decarbonize Connecticut’s electric supply by 2040, and ensure the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) has the authority to conduct successful procurements for energy storage, respectively.

NECEC is a clean energy business, policy, and innovation organization whose mission is to create a world-class clean energy hub in the Northeast, delivering global impact with economic, energy and environmental solutions. NECEC is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. NECEC members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced and “smart” technologies.

Decarbonizing our electric grid is critical to meeting the state’s greenhouse gas reduction commitments. Moreover, the transition to a clean energy grid must be just, affordable and swift. As such, both SB10 and SB90 are critical to ensuring we do not fall behind in the race to address climate change.

SB10

To meet the complex challenges of mitigating climate change and harnessing the economic development opportunities of the clean energy economy, it's crucial for Connecticut to establish (and continually refine) a framework of ambitious targets that signal to the market an unwavering and long-term commitment to a low carbon future. SB10 represents a critical step in establishing the framework that is needed for clean energy to flourish within the state. By establishing a zero-carbon electric supply target in the context of an overall greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy, Connecticut will be able to make measurable progress towards its decarbonization commitments.

The electric sector must decarbonize as we begin to electrify other sectors of the economy and this bill recognizes that reality. A zero carbon supply commitment will empower the state's policy and regulatory bodies to design policies, programs, and rate designs with the end goal of decarbonization. Combined with the energy storage procurement discussed below, we have an opportunity this session to decarbonize the grid and integrate additional resilient clean energy supply to help Connecticut meet its climate goals. By passing this bill into law, Connecticut will codify its spot among a growing list of states and territories that are moving towards a clean energy future.¹

SB 90

This bill modifies Public Act 21-53 passed last year, which allows DEEP to conduct a procurement for energy storage. SB 90 would allow DEEP to do two things: (1) to hire consultants to help evaluate the results of the procurement, and (2) to direct the Electric Distribution Companies ("EDCs") to enter into contracts with the proposals selected in the procurement. This straightforward enhancement to DEEP's procurement authority will ensure that any procurement for energy storage is in the best interest of ratepayers and state policy, and that DEEP can actually direct the EDCs to enter into contracts with the winners. NECEC also recommends that "stored energy" be added to the list of products that DEEP may include in EDC agreements under Section 1(c) of the legislation.

Energy storage will play a critical role in ensuring that a fully decarbonized electric grid is efficient and can fully integrate the major scale-up in clean energy resources that will be needed to meet and sustain decarbonization. The procurement authority granted to DEEP in Public Act 21-53, and clarified in SB90, is broad enough to allow for many types of energy storage resources to be procured, including: pilot projects for long-duration energy storage, energy storage projects intended to replace dirty peaker plants, cost-effective storage to integrate

¹ At least ten states have already adopted 100% clean energy targets:
<https://www.cesa.org/projects/100-clean-energy-collaborative/guide/table-of-100-clean-energy-states/>

renewables or relieve demand, and more. NECEC and our members are encouraged by the possibilities of this procurement, and urge the Committee to advance this bill and for DEEP to conduct a thorough procurement able to deliver wide benefits to the state, and its residents and ratepayers.

NECEC thanks the Committee for its consideration of both SB10 and SB90, and we urge the Committee to advance these bills expeditiously. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeremy C. McDiarmid".

Jeremy McDiarmid
VP, Policy & Government Affairs
jmcdiarmid@necec.org

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sean Burke".

Sean Burke
Policy Associate
sburke@necec.org